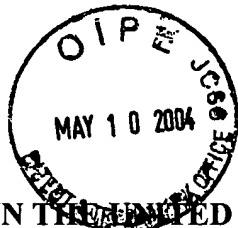


VINTL.087A



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Steven F. Bierman  
Appl. No. : 09/767,207  
Filed : January 22, 2001  
For : MEDICAL DEVICE  
CONNECTOR FITTING  
Examiner : Kathryn L. Thompson  
Group Art Unit : 3763

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

May 7, 2004

(Date)

  
James F. Herkenhoff Reg. No. 51,241

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED  
MAY 17 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests the following amendments to the claims be made before examination on the merits begins. Changes to pending claims have been identified with underlining to indicate insertions and by strikethrough to indicate deletions.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

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